

REMARKS

In response to a Final Official Action, the Applicant is filing a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. At the time of the Final Official Action, claims 1-20 were pending. In this Preliminary Amendment, no claims are canceled, but claims 1-10, 13-18, and 20 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1-4 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,415,318 to Aggarwal et al. (hereinafter “the Aggarwal reference”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,393,484 to Massarani (hereinafter “the Massarani reference”). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Aggarwal reference in view of the Massarani reference and further in view of U.S. Application No. US20010005883 to Wray et al. (hereinafter “the Wray reference”). These rejections are addressed in detail below.

Interview Summary

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.133 and M.P.E.P. § 713.04, the Applicant presents the following summary of a telephonic interview conducted on or about March 22, 2005, between the Examiner and the Applicant’s Attorney, Barry D. Blount, Reg. No. 35,069. Mr. Blount initiated the interview to clarify the Examiner’s rejection and comments associated with the claim language. After a discussion of the claim language, the Examiner and Mr. Blount were unable to reach a consensus.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Aggarwal reference in view of the Massarani reference. The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Aggarwal reference in view of the Massarani reference and further in view of the Wray reference. Specifically, with respect to the independent claims, the Examiner stated:

5. As per claim 1, Aggarwal et al teach a method for enabling communication between a first agent in a first domain and a second agent in a second domain comprising the steps of:
a coordinator in the first domain (column 2, lines 34-45 and Figure 2, 68; the bridgehead server coordinates the messages by directing to the appropriate client) a send-message service (column 2, lines 24-45) with a service bus (column 2, line 35-45; network); and

the second agent in the second domain communicating with first agent by employing the service bus, the registered send-message service, and the coordinator in the first domain; wherein the method solves the interface diversity problem and does not require a central coordinator (column 3, lines 4-9 and column 10, lines 10-26; the bridgehead server performs these tasks so no central coordinator is needed).

6. Aggarwal et al fail to show a method of registering a service.

7. However Massarani shows a network that includes a DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) server that registers users by assigning IP addresses (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Aggarwal et al and Massarani to create a method for enabling communication between a first agent and a second agent by registering a message service because would provide for automated registering of services with a network allowing new services with a network to be added without user intervention.

...

18. As per claims 13-17, contain similar limitations as claims 1-12 above, therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

19. As per claim 18, Aggarwal et al teach a method for enabling inter-enterprise agent communication comprising the steps of:

- a) grouping agents into a first group in a first domain; (Figure 2, clients 64 grouped into domain 60A)
- b) assigning a coordinator to the agents in the first group; (column 14, lines 36-40 and Figure 2, 68; bridgehead server)

- c) send-message service of the coordinator with a service bus; (column 2, line 23-45)
 - d) the coordinator receiving messages from a second domain; wherein the messages are directed to an agent in the first group; (column 14, lines 36-40)
 - e) the coordinator forwarding the messages to an intended recipient agent; wherein the service bus provides inter-enterprise communication services between the first domain and the second domain (column 3, lines 4-9 and column 10, lines 10-26).
20. Aggarwal et al fail to show a method of registering a service.
21. However Massarani shows a network that includes a DHCP (Dynamic Host Control Protocol) server that registers users by assigning IP addresses (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to combine the teachings of Aggarwal et al and Massarani to create a method for enabling communication between a first agent and a second agent by registering a message service because doing so would provide agents the ability to communicate using messages

Final Office Action, pages 3-7.

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. The burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness falls on the Examiner. *Ex parte Wolters and Kuypers*, 214 U.S.P.Q. 735 (Bd. of Pat. App. & Inter. 1979). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Accordingly, to establish a *prima facie* case, the Examiner must not only show that the combination includes *all* of the claimed elements, but also a convincing line of reason as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972 (Bd. of Pat. App. & Inter. 1985). When prior art references require a selected combination to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be some reason for the combination other than the hindsight

gained from the invention itself, i.e., something in the prior art as a whole must suggest the desirability, and thus the obviousness, of making the combination. *Uniroyal Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 837 F.2d 1044, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1434 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). One cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

As set forth above, independent claims 1, 13, and 18 are presently amended to more clearly set forth and claim embodiments of the present invention. The Applicant believes that these amendments will expedite allowance of the present application. Indeed, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the references cited by the Examiner clearly fail to include *all* of the presently claimed elements, whether the cited references are considered individually or together.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “registering the first domain coordinator with the second domain service bus *without registering the first agent.*” (Emphasis added). Amended independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, “a send-message service that is registered with the second domain service bus *without having the first agent registered with the second domain service bus.*” (Emphasis added). Amended independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, “registering a send-message service of the coordinator with the second domain service bus *without registering agents in the first group.*” (Emphasis added).

The Applicant asserts that the recited elements of the claims are not shown in the referenced cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are improper.

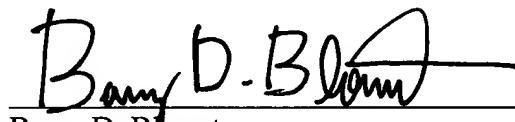
In view of the deficiencies of the cited references, as discussed above, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Further, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of the claims depending from independent claims 1, 13, and 18 in view of their respective dependencies and based on unique matter recited in each of the dependent claims. The Applicant also requests the Examiner to provide an indication of allowance for all of the currently pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 19, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry D. Blount", written over a horizontal line.

Barry D. Blount
Reg. No. 35,069
(281) 970-4545

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Department, M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400